

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 as being anticipated by Etherington (3,677,680) but has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if written in independent form.

He stated that the reason claim 2 is allowable is that none of the prior art of record taught an apparatus of claim 1 wherein

- (1) "the machine is a stamping press, the mount is a mandrel with a cylindrical surface designed for sliding contact with a workpiece and . . ."
- (2) "the passageway in the mount has a first portion that extends radially inwardly from said cylindrical surface and a second portion that extends axially of the mandrel from the radially inward end."

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the above part (2) of the features of claim 2 quoted by the Examiner as not being taught by the prior art and has added a new claim 6, dependent from claim 1, that recites the remaining features quoted by the Examiner. The remaining claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

In addition, Applicant has amended the title of the application to delete "AND METHOD," to reflect the previous withdrawal of method claims 4 and 5 in response to the Examiner's previous requirement for restriction.

Applicant submits that the application is therefore in condition for allowance of apparatus claims 1 and 6, the only claims remaining in the application.

Independent Claim 1 is allowable because, as the Examiner noted, the Etherington (3,677,680) reference fails to disclose a vacuum sensing passageway that extends radially inwardly from the contact surface that contacts the tubular wall of the workpiece.

Claim 6, dependent from claim 1 adds the details of a specific embodiment of the invention, namely a machine that is a stamping press, whose mount for the workpiece is a mandrel, in which the radially inwardly vacuum sensing passageway is located.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank C. Manak III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank C. Manak III

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 22044

21 Keswick Drive

Hudson OH 44236-3316

Tel. No. 330-656-1751